

A NEW SPINNING MITE ATTACKING ASPARAGUS PLUMOSUS
IN FLORIDA

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In the course of their duties at the Federal laboratory at Orlando, Florida, Mr. W. W. Yothers and Mr. C. B. Keck observed a mite causing serious damage to the ornamental plant *Asparagus plumosus*. During the seasons of 1928 and 1929, these entomologists sent to the present writer specimens of the Asparagus mite and a description of the appearance and work of the pest in the field. Critical study has established that the mite is new to science, and its characters are such that it can hardly be placed in any known genus. Consequently the following new genus is created to receive the present new species:

DIVARINYCHUS, new genus.

This genus is thus far represented by a single species from Florida.

Spinning mites with empodial claw very deeply split into two equal, strong, divaricate, sickle-shaped fang-like prongs, each prong bearing dorsally two exceedingly fine hair-like spurs which hardly equal in length that of the prongs. Collar trachea extending downward first as a rather straight narrow tube, then bending at an angle of about 155°, increasing gradually in caliber to form enlarged distal portion. Penis with basilar lobe absent from usual position; with corresponding lobe ventrally opposite usual position of basilar lobe; bearing distally a sharp-pointed barb.

Type.—*Divarinychus floridensis* McGregor.

Divarinychus floridensis, new species.

Female.—General body color salmon pink, varying to greenish-yellow in certain old individuals; dark colored blotches laterally, probably due to dark material contained in internal organs; legs and palpi same color as body. Eyes carmine, directly above coxae II. Body oval, widest across hind margin of cephalothorax, in length about 0.41 mm. Body setae conspicuous. "Thumb" of palpus thicker than long, bearing at its tip a "finger" which is thicker than long, and the base of which is only about one-fourth less thick than that of the "thumb" at tip; the dorsal "finger" or sensilla is at least half again the length of the terminal "finger"; the customary pair of digituli arise from the dorso-distal angle; a short hair arises laterally near the tip of the "thumb," and a pair of hairs arise dorsally between the dorsal sensilla and the base of the "thumb"; the claw of the penultimate joint reaches to the dorsal "finger." Legs a trifle shorter than usual, quite hairy; femur 2 1-5 times as long as thick, barely exceeding the tarsus; tibia barely exceeding the patella, which is about one-half again as long as the trochanter: Relative lengths of the joints of foreleg as

EXPLANATION OF FIGURES.

Divarinychus floridensis McGregor.

Fig. 1, tarsal appendages in profile; Fig. 2, foreleg viewed laterally; Fig. 3, palpus (♀) and its appendages, viewed laterally; Fig. 4, tarsal appendages viewed from above; Fig. 5, collar trachea; Fig. 6, penis, viewed laterally.



follows: Trochanter, 14; femur, 33; patella, 20; tibia, 22; tarsus, 32. Tip of tarsus (female) with an empodial claw which is split almost to its base into two equal strong, divaricate, sickle-shaped prongs; each of these divisions bears dorsally two exceedingly fine hair-like spurs which hardly equal in length that of

the prongs. The usual series of four tenent hairs arise from the onychium at the sides of the empodial claw base. Collar trachea extending downward first as a rather straight narrow tube, then bending backward at an angle of about 155° , increasing gradually in caliber to form the enlarged distal portion. Egg salmon pink, spherical, without markings.

Male.—General body color salmon pink; irregular dark blotches laterally. Legs same color as body; front legs longer than other three pairs. Body cuneate-oval, widest across hind margin of cephalothorax, in length about 0.26 mm. Eyes dark carmine. Penis with inner lobe rod-like, about twice as long as shaft; basilar lobe absent from its usual position, but with a corresponding lobe situated ventrally at a point opposite the usual position of the basilar lobe; shaft proximally about three times as thick as inner lobe and tapering distally; hook bent upward at nearly right angles to shaft, and in turn deflected distally to form a sharp-pointed barb.

Type slide.—Cat. No. 1004, U. S. N. M.

The type material is from Longwood, Florida, February 8, 1928, from *Asparagus plumosus*, collected by C. B. Keck. The same species has been received from the same host from Orlando, Florida. Mr. W. W. Yothers of Orlando has always maintained that this mite is distinct from other red spiders occurring in Florida. Messrs. Yothers and Keck write that, so far as they know, "this species has not been taken on any plant other than *Asparagus plumosus*, but it probably occurs on many other plants." The injury to the *Asparagus* "fern" occurs chiefly to the more tender growth and young shoots, and where the infestation is heavy the color of the plant is changed from green to whitish.

TWO NEW SPECIES OF PARASITIC HYMENOPTERA (BRACONIDAE) FROM OHIO.

By F. DEGANT.

SUBFAMILY ROGADINAE.

Rogas granulata, new species.

This species can be separated from most of those already described, by its more slender habitus. Its entire body including palpi and legs, except the parts specified below, is granular. The pronotum is also less declivous anteriorly than usual, giving the thorax an appearance quite different from that so characteristic of *R. parasiticus* Norton, *R. terminalis* Cresson, and *R. abdominalis* Cresson. In habitus as well as in having the 4th tergite strongly striated this species resembles *R. aciculatus* Cresson but is at once distinguished by its dark markings.

Female.—Length 4.5 mm.; anterior wing 4 mm. Antennae 47 jointed, the joints all two or more times as long as thick. Head transverse and clothed with scattered hairs; posterior orbits about one-half the transverse diameter of